



Brandon M. Scott
Council President

Eric T. Costello
Councilman 11th District
Chair Budget & Appropriations

June 03, 2019

Commissioner Michael S. Harrison
Baltimore Police Department
601 E. Fayette Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Commissioner Harrison:

Thank you for your continued commitment to making Baltimore a safer city by improving the Baltimore Police Department. As you know, working to address the dual, mutually reinforcing goals of reducing violence and reforming the Department has been our top priority on the City Council. This requires a commitment to the US DOJ Consent Decree, which you have demonstrated and, this year's budget exhibits. We were pleased to see serious investment in the much-needed technology and equipment upgrades called for in the Consent Decree.

The Council must also see tangible progress on some of the other areas that we have prioritized. With homicides and non-fatal shootings up this year as compared to last, we restate the demand we have made to your predecessors: BPD must prepare a crime reduction plan to be included in the City's comprehensive violence reduction plan, and BPD must make that plan available to the City Council. This is critically urgent. As summer is upon us, Baltimore City can ill afford a police department that lacks a strategic approach to combating violent crime. Additionally, as we have discussed in our Monthly Oversight Hearings, BPD must develop: a Complete Plan for Civilianization and a Complete Plan for 911 Service Call Reduction.

The Council is poised to work with BPD on our shared goals of reducing overtime costs and creating a more efficient and effective department. In order to do that, we must see your plans for Civilianization and Call Reduction.

BPD will be before the Budget and Appropriations Committee on Friday June 7 for your annual budget hearing. We expect you to come prepared to share and discuss (1) A comprehensive crime plan, (2) a complete plan for Civilianization, and (3) a Complete 911 Service Call Reduction Plan. A review of these plans will be essential to the Council's evaluation of your proposed budget.

We look forward to receiving the requested information and stand ready to help you with anything in our power to improve the Police Department as we work towards our shared goal of making Baltimore a safer city. Should you need further clarification or information, please contact our offices. Thank you for your assistance with these matters and for your continued and dedicated service to Baltimore City.

Sincerely,

Brandon M. Scott
Chair
Public Safety Committee

Eric T. Costello
Chair
Budget & Appropriations Committee